



THE TORCH

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September 2025
Sunday Worship
9:00 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church • 18137 Criswell Street • Bettendorf, Iowa 52722 • 563-332-5188
Pastor Stephen Nilsen 563-332-6432 (office) 319-540-1172 (cell) snilsen@trinitylcpv.com (email)

Greetings to all you movers and shakers,

Like a lot of two-year-olds, Leslie is moving around quite a bit lately. She's become quite the big fan of the Raffi song "Shake My Sillies Out," which she dances and sings along to just like I used to many years ago. Something about that movement brings such joy and love into the world.

One of my favorite books when I was in seminary was David Bosch's *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maybe that title is a bit scary or wordy, but at its core is a thesis that "to participate in mission is to participate in the movement of God's love toward people, since God is a fountain of sending love." God's love and participating in God's mission is always about movement! We come alongside one another to join in that movement in lots of ways: even the movement toward one another for simple hugs or showing up for one another when someone is sick or hospitalized is a part of that movement of God's love. Mission and movement have been linked for me ever since this formative book came into my life.

On August 19, the ELCA Innovation Lab came to Bettendorf to meet with leaders (it was mostly all pastors, but others were welcome) to hear about ministry happening around the Quad Cities and the Southeastern Iowa Synod. As the facilitators began our time together, the questions were simple, but provoked a lot of great conversations. Those questions included:

What excites you about ministry in your context?
What are the barriers to innovation in your ministry context?
What do you want your church to know?

The answers to these questions were as varied as the different pastors and congregations we serve, but many of them stuck to similar themes. Most of the excitement shared was centered around community, and the parts of ministry that we find special about a particular congregation. I spoke of the openness that folks at Trinity Lutheran Church have to trying new things; I invite you to think of how you might answer that question, and let me know: *what excites you about Trinity Lutheran Church?*

Challenges to innovation are always hard to talk about, because they speak to a reality that makes it feel like something we would like to change or get excited about are not possible for some reason. Almost everyone in our group of about 17 pastors spoke about some form of nostalgia or shifting culture or the scarcity of time for ourselves and those in our congregations. I wonder what challenges you have seen in recent times here at *Trinity: what barriers to innovation do you see at this church?*

Most of the colleagues in this area spoke about simple truths that they would want our church to know, even though the facilitators opened this up to thinking about the church in each of its three expressions (congregation, synod, or churchwide). I mentioned knowing the basic song "Jesus loves me, this I know." That truth encapsulates all that we do in ministry: Jesus loves me, so I serve neighbors through a food pantry, a garden, getting involved with a committee; Jesus loves me, so I join in worship; Jesus loves me, so I feel moved by the Spirit to join in conversations with my colleagues about ways we might join in more intentional collaboration (more on that in the months to come). If you were asked that simple question, *what you would want the church to know?*

I'm available to discuss any of these questions with you whenever you would like, as we move along in Christ's name

Moving together, through the Spirit,

Pastor Stephen Nilsen

Trinity Office Hours Tues, Wed, Thurs - 9AM-1PM
Pastor Stephen's Office Hours Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs -10AM - 2PM

Council President's Message

It is very bittersweet to announce that this will be my final message as President of the Trinity Lutheran Church Council. For those that were not aware, I have accepted the Police Chief position for the Fergus Falls Police Department in Fergus Falls, Minnesota. Yes, it is quite a shock to me also where life has taken me over the past four months. As runner-up for the Bettendorf Police Chief position in February, I quickly realized that my leadership style did not match with that of the new chief. My options were to put up with it or make a change. . . and I chose to make a change. While interviewing in Fergus Falls, I observed a sign outside of a church that said, "Faith shows the path. . . but it doesn't mean it will be easy." That is very applicable to my life. God has given me a path to follow, and the remaining chapters of my life will be lived out in service to the Fergus Falls community. We are building a house in Fergus Falls, so Nathalie and the girls will stay back until the house is completed. I will be back every couple of weeks for long weekends and look forward to seeing each of you back at Trinity! Now, on to my final report.

At the last council meeting it was reported the success of the blood pressure checks that are being offered. Four individuals had high numbers and went to get help. Those numbers then decreased at a later visit. A reminder that high blood pressure is a "silent disease" and I encourage you to "know your numbers." If you don't then I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to get screened. Thank you to all the volunteers that help make this a possibility.

After my and Ron Morrow's resignations we were down a couple council members. Thanks to John Ahlers and Don Kathan for stepping up and agreeing to serve on council. These appointments were approved at the August meeting. John is pulling "double duty" on council and as treasurer. The by-laws were consulted to make sure there were no conflicts with this and there were none found. Thank you John and Don and welcome to council!!! Please offer both thanks when you see them next.

If you have not seen the amazing transformation that is occurring at the Butterfly Garden, I encourage you to walk over and check it out. John Newman has spent hours sweating and toiling to breathe some fresh air into the Butterfly Garden. Please take a moment to thank John for his dedication and efforts to the Butterfly Garden. I apologize if I missed others that have helped John, and I know John will take any assistance from anyone interested in helping out. It is really fulfilling to see the fruits of hard labor show themselves in the form of pollinators and butterflies floating around the garden.

This is the time of year when council members begin gathering feedback for Pastor Stephen's annual review. It is a time to celebrate the accomplishments over the past year at Trinity. If you have input you would like to provide about how you feel the last year has gone, please pass them along to a member of council. Council members will be gathering input from their respective committees and it will be compiled into a single list to review with Pastor Stephen. This is a fitting time to show joy and appreciation for the leadership and guidance that Pastor Stephen gives here at Trinity.

Please keep my family and me in your prayers during this transition to Fergus Falls. I will be staying in touch and continue worshipping at Trinity when in town. I am forever thankful that my parents chose Trinity for our family back in 1985. I don't see this move as a closed chapter with my relationship with Trinity. This is just the beginning of a new chapter.

Justin Paul

WANT TO CONNECT THE WITH WEEKLY HAPPENINGS AT TRINITY?

Sign up for our weekly email bulletin that will let you know what's happening in the week ahead and have other great upcoming announcements, as well as the weekly bulletin for worship. Call (332-5188) or email Paula (office@trinitylcpv.com) in the office to sign up!

YEAR TO DATE FINANCIAL INFO THROUGH JULY 2025

Collections to date	\$108,519.23
Expenses to date	\$105,629.66
Net to date	\$ 2,888.57
No funds have been transferred from Stewardship Reserves year to date.	

ATTENDANCE TOTALS FOR AUGUST 2025

August 3	54
August 10	52
August 17	67
August 24	58

BIRTHDAYS

2 Linda Busch
 4 Vicki Jebson
 5 Darrell Paul
 7 Alice Cordts
 10 Stephanie Engler
 10 Barb Norris
 11 Randy Goslin
 17 Connor West
 18 Travis Brunsvold
 19 Clark Wright
 20 Don Cordts
 22 Caiden Raddatz
 30 Bill Romans

HAPPY
Birthday

SEPTEMBER

ANNIVERSARIES

3 Bob & Suzy White
 3 Mac & Paula McIntosh
 4 Josh & Beth Paul
 20 John & Cathy Newman

Happy Anniversary

Worship & Fellowship Volunteers

	September 7	September 14	September 21	September 28	October 5
Altar Guild	Linda Busch	Mary Shelton	Sally Morrow	Diane Holst	Volunteer Needed
Communion Assistant	Michelle Crist	Jo Ann Hogenson	Sally Morrow	Diane Holst	Sally Morrow
Lector	Ellen Opperman	Barb Paul	Dawn Brick	Glenna Sbertoli	John Newman
Usher Greeter	Diane Cook Al McIlrath	Lois Schurr Chris Kaul	Jo Ann Hogenson Ron Morrow	Debra Anderson Don Cordts	Ron Morrow Volunteer Needed
Worship Video Livestream Producer	Kathy Naslund	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed
Fellowship	Barb & Darrell Paul	Volunteer Needed	Volunteer Needed	Diane & Wayne Holst	Volunteer Needed

If you would like to help us in our Sunday Gathering by doing any of the above tasks, please contact the church office to be added to the list of volunteers.

If you are unable to fulfill your duties, please find a replacement and call or email the church office (332-5188 or office@trinitylcpv.com) with your replacement. Thank you.



Lutheran World Relief Kits Assembled and Ready

Thanks to the amazing generosity of people from TLC, St. James Lutheran Church, and Grace Lutheran Church, our summer Day Camp in partnership with Ewalu was able to assemble many kits filled with newborn care and personal care items. We have now assembled 42 personal care kits and 44 baby care kits! These will impact people served by Lutheran World Relief (LWR) across the globe. Some funding for the items needed for the kits was also supplemented by a Thrivent Action Team grant. If you or someone you know would be able to drive some of these kits to their next stop in the Twin Cities, please contact Mary Shelton.

Thanks be to God for the many hands that helped to assemble and ready these kits for use by those who it will help.

Crossroads Youth Group Kicking Off in September

Young folks from 6th Grade through 9th Grade are invited to join in our shared youth group and confirmation class with our partners in ministry at First Presbyterian Church in LeClaire.

We will have an information meeting with parents and students on Sunday, September 14 at 5 PM here at Trinity with Sunday evenings to follow, alternating locations by month.

Like last year, if you are interested in sharing your culinary talents, simple meals will be provided for kids, so we would welcome you bringing food for the beginning of the sessions starting September 21st!

Crossroads Youth

FAITH AT A CROSSROADS

Sundays

5-7 PM



First
Presbyterian
Church
Le Claire



Trinity
Lutheran
Church
Pleasant Valley



Enjoy a Night Out at the Country Café

Mark your calendars for September 21. The HOT Team will be hosting the second TLC gathering at the Country Café in Pleasant Valley at 5:00 PM. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex. It's a great way to get to know each other outside of Sunday Worship. Hoping many of you can come and enjoy this fellowship.

Great Night Out at Trinity Night at the River Bandits!

A fun-loving group of 24 Trinity members and friends joined in for beautiful night of weather at the ballpark for Trinity Night at the River Bandits! The Bandits may have lost, but folks had a great time, sharing in fellowship and cheering them on, and we got to enjoy some great fireworks after the game.



Trinity Card Crafting Ministry Meeting Thursday, September 11 1-3 PM

Trinity's card ministry meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM in the lower level of the church. The next meeting will be September 11 from 1:00-3:00 PM. All are welcome to join us with no experience necessary!



Each month we make and deliver cards to the residents of Aspire of Pleasant Valley Nursing and Rehab (Formerly River Manor). We also make and mail greetings to members and friends of Trinity. In addition, the committee has been working to replenish the supply of greeting cards for sale in the Fellowship Hall. All cards are \$2.00.

Join the PPALs Bible Study

Saturdays at 8 AM at Trinity Lutheran Church

Join together in a new Bible Study with Christians from around the PV, Princeton, Argo, and Le Claire area that make up PPALs. We encourage you to grab a coffee or beverage and join in for readings and discussion of the Bible. For more information, see [Randy Goslin](#).



WEEKLY READINGS

09/07 Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1, Philemon 1-21, Luke 14:25-33

09/14 Numbers 21:4b-9, Psalm 98:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:18-24, John 3:13-17

09/21 Amos 8:4-7, Psalm 113, 1 Timothy 2:1-7, Luke 16:1-13

09/28 Amos 6:1a, 4-7, Psalm 146, 1 Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

Join Trinity Prayer Chain to Connect with Community

A community that prays for one another is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. We have been praying for and with each other for a long time here at Trinity Lutheran Church, but often we don't know exactly what we are praying for in those instances. If you would like to share in brief emails when there are prayer requests sent in to the office or to Pastor Stephen (at the times when permission is given), please email [Pastor](#) or the [office](#) to be added to the Trinity Prayer Chain. These will likely be brief emails to provide a notice when an emergency has happened or when someone is requesting prayers for a family member. Prayer requests will be asked whether they would like any details shared with the prayer chain when they make those requests.



Trinity Blood Pressure Ministry

After worship on September 7

Trinity will be offering this ministry the first Sunday of each month by our qualified congregational members. There are several stories of health monitoring, helping the lives of those who have joined in this ministry.



Growing in the Garden: Feeding Our Community

The Trinity Lutheran Anti-Hunger Garden Ministry is winding down as we head into September and reaping all the fall harvest. The fruits of this labor go to serve our neighbors in need through both the Trinity Food Pantry and the Central Community Circle (CCC) Food Pantry in Davenport – providing nourishing, fresh produce to neighbors in need who often are only provided with packaged, processed goods. With additional questions, please contact Dane Crist (563-340-6343, gr8tdane_10@yahoo.com) or sign-up in the Narthex.



Fall Scott County Library's Bookmobile Stops

The Scott County Library Bookmobile will stop by the church parking lot on Tuesday afternoons every three weeks. Anyone with a library card from a library in Scott County can check out books and other media. We will have snacks and drinks available in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!

Upcoming stops: 4:40-5:10 PM on Tuesdays, September 9 and 30

For more info, visit: Scottcountyia.gov/library/bookmobile

Trinity Food Pantry Continues Feeding Our Neighbors

Pantry Hours: Mondays, 9-11 AM and Thursdays, 4-6 PM

From John 21:17, "Jesus asked him... 'do you love me?... 'feed my sheep.'"

Our community food pantry continues to serve our neighbors, and we are blessed with many volunteers, but more are always welcome. We welcome volunteers for other aspects of the food pantry beyond the times when we are open, such as organizing the food in the pantry and sorting new donations. If you would like to help out, please reach out to Dane Crist or Pastor Stephen or email pantry@trinitylcpv.com.

You can also pick up one of the Food Pantry flyers or Food Pantry business cards to spread the word for those in the community that you know could use the help.

Thanks so much for your support!
Trinity Food Pantry Team
pantry@trinitylcpv.com. 563 332-6432



**God's Work, Our Hands Sunday:
Special ELCA Day of Service**
Sunday, September 7, 2025



God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

Bring some working clothes with you on the first Sunday in September, because we're using our hands to help in God's work this year as part of God's Work, Our Hands Sunday! Even if you've never helped with some of the ministry opportunities around Trinity or around our community, there's something for everyone!

There will be opportunities to help with:

- Stocking and organizing the food pantry
- Weeding and planting in the butterfly garden
- Harvesting in the anti-hunger garden
- Tying blankets for mothers served through Edgerton Clinic
- Writing letters to advocate for feeding policies to help our neighbors

Help for the Trinity Food Pantry for God's Work, Our Hands Sunday

Items needed for Trinity Food Pantry

- Protein - canned meats, tuna
- Hearty soups or one-pot meals
- Hygiene items like toothpaste, shampoo, and soap

Our Trinity Food Pantry has served 86 families that range from 1 to 12 people each household. During the following months, we will share some of their hearty, warm stories. Our guests are very appreciative of our pantry.

CROP Walk Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive

Now through October 5, 2025

CROP Hunger Walk: Sunday, October 5 - Registration at 1 PM - Walk Starts at 2 PM

Drop off any sizes or types of Peanut Butter or Jelly jars for the annual CROP Walk Collection to be distributed around the Quad Cities.

If you're interested in walking, this year's walk will again start from the Moline side by the I-74 bridge around 2 PM on Sunday, October 5 with the registration opening around 1 PM. You can join our team of walkers sponsor the team financially by either signing up in the Narthex or through Dane Crist or checking out

Events.CropHungerWalk.org/2025



Ewalu Camp & Retreat Center Autumn Odyssey

55+ year-old Retreat | October 13-15

Mon., Oct. 13 at 4PM - Wed., Oct. 15 at 11AM

Cost: Double occupancy: \$175 | Single: \$225

Enjoy Ewalu's fall retreat just for seniors at the comfortable Stone Center north of Strawberry Point!

Join us for featured speakers, time for reflection and renewal, optional hiking and chair yoga, and simple relaxation. Plus, we'll see the beautiful fall colors in NE Iowa! *Meals and lodging included.*

Featured Speakers: Rev. Joan Fumetti from Des Moines and Rev. Larry Trachte from Waverly

Register online at Ewalu.org/Autumn-Odyssey



SOME BUZZ

Some may ask: Why a Butterfly Garden in our Parking Lot Median?

I recall 12 or more years ago, I ran into some people in our parking lot, whose only connection to our church was that their children attended the Preschool. They chose to use our then vibrantly blooming Butterfly Garden as the background for their family photos. I still remember their comments about the garden's beauty.

Fast forward to the present. Despite the maintenance efforts of a few over the last several years, the Garden is worn out. It is dominated by one plant species, with a lot of scrub brush. In a nutshell, the Garden looks weedy.

My impression is that Council gave our congregation a choice. Somebody step up to rejuvenate the Garden, or the Council will spend the money to convert it to rock. College summer job experience taught me that rock is not maintenance-free. Over time, it creates its own issues. And, I don't believe that 100 feet of rock in a parking lot median is terribly attractive.

In Luke's Easter story, an angel in the empty tomb asks the women a most memorable question. "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" So why resign ourselves to the finality of death when God, through Christ, offers life? How ironic that, through our garden, the Butterfly - long a symbol of the new life offered by Christ's resurrection - now provides us with a symbolic choice: Restore the once vibrant garden to new life, or accept its demise and replace it with the stale, non-life, rock offers.

To be clear, at its core, a Butterfly Garden is a flower garden. The flowers are not the commercial hybrids we may buy in a store because they look pretty. They are native plants attractive to many kinds of pollinators, as a food source and as a place to gather material for their home-building. Just the other day, I marveled at seeing at least six goldfinches scurrying about the few sunflowers we now have; wrestling to take seeds as food, dropping some seeds to the ground to possibly germinate for next year.

I believe the Garden offers one opportunity to work to show neighbors and visitors that we take thankful pride in that which God has given us. In return for our efforts, we may be rewarded with isolated glimpses of the awesome energy of God's creative genius provides.

I believe we should try to restore the garden to the type of vibrant life that inspired one family to take photos at our church some 12 years ago. I am probably too busy to undertake the work restoration will require. As measured by the ache my body feels when I claw around in dirt for several hours, I am probably too old. I pray that God will give me the wisdom I need to find time. I pray that God will bless my aches.

I invite others to seek ways to join me in our restoration project.

John Newman



LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Thanks to all of you that volunteer for the Worship Services. I know this is a repeat from the August Torch, however, our list of volunteers continues to get smaller. Circumstances change for many of us and can no longer participate as a Worship Volunteer. I would like to encourage those that haven't participated in the past to give it a try. It can be a fulfilling way to share the gifts we have. I would like to encourage those that volunteer to please use the sign up sheet in the Narthex. It makes it easier to keep the weekly bulletin and the Thursday email current. Thanks to all of you for giving your time and talents. If you are interested please give me a call at the church office 563 332-5188.

Paula



For the Life of the World: Reflections on the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Under the theme “For the Life of the World,” the Churchwide Assembly helped shape the mission and direction of our church through worship, elections, discussion, and decision-making. While all of the work of the assembly is important, this year’s gathering held special significance for our synod.

Bishop Amy Current was nominated to participate in the election for presiding bishop and had the opportunity to address the voting members and guests of the assembly. This was a deeply meaningful and impactful experience for Bishop Current. She has written a personal reflection to share with you—the people of the Southeastern Iowa Synod—who continue to pray and walk alongside her in ministry. Bishop Current’s reflection is below:



Dear Beloved Ones of the Southeastern Iowa Synod,

Thank you for your prayers for the work of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, for the Southeastern Iowa Synod voting members, and for me over these last days and months. What a week! The voting members will have much to share as we return home to our congregations and synod. As I write this, we still have a day and a half ahead.

I write today to offer my deep gratitude for your support, for your prayers, for your curiosity, and for living in the tension of discernment with me. As you know, I had the profound privilege of being considered as a candidate for the role of ELCA presiding bishop. As you know, I believe in the Spirit and in call so I felt compelled to engage in prayers beginning now and daily.

And, I am relieved . . . I felt the call to be open. I felt the call to address the assembly. And, as the first line of my biographical form reads, “I love serving as the Bishop of the Southeastern Iowa Synod, with its joys and challenges both and I continue to feel called,” so as the results of the third ballot were revealed, my breath exhaled, my shoulders dropped, and I gave thanks to God for the affirmation of my call to serve with you still.

So, as your bishop, I want to share with you the sermon that I preached to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, I pray that we hear God’s love for us and that together, we might listen as the process—all the while, knowing that my very clear sense of call is to “share the Good News of God through Jesus Christ” with all y’all in Southeastern Iowa. It was a true honor to stand, to receive the prayers and affirmation, to pray with my colleagues and friends as we addressed the church side by side, and then to breathe a deep sigh of clarity when my name was not among the top three candidates.

Here is what I want you to know about my experience of discernment and the experience. The words that I have been using are Affirmed, Proud, and Relieved. What a beautiful experience to feel affirmed in my call as a preacher and leader in our church. As I prepared for my address to the assembly, I was praying about how to balance preaching and pragmatic. I clearly heard the call to preach Jesus. I had another speech that outlined my imagination for priorities, structure, administration, etc. but the Holy Spirit beckoned me in a different direction. I was confident and clear that I was being called to preach to the assembly. Why? Well, one of the things that I am deeply concerned about is that we, in the ELCA, can be afraid to proclaim Jesus. I fear that we are bashful about the Gospel. I believe that the Holy Spirit is calling us to confession, to repentance, so that we might be profoundly transformed by the power of God’s love that transforms the world . . . but more on that later.

I am proud of myself for standing. I am proud of myself for remaining open to the process of discernment. I am proud of myself for taking up the space that I was provided to preach, teach, and witness to our church and the world. I am proud of myself for having the courage to be vulnerable. I am proud of myself for taking the risk that if God through the church had called me to the role that I would have had to go and leave this call that I love as your bishop in Southeastern Iowa. I am proud of you for your support and prayers. I am proud of our Office of the Bishop team for standing in the tension with such love and faithfulness. I am proud of my colleagues and fellow candidates in our loving support for one another in prayer. I am proud of our church for electing and calling Bishop Yehiel Curry. I pray that we will surround him and his family with the Spirit opens our hearts to the living Word, to the table, to the font, and to the beloved and weary world where God is always making all things new.

Thank you for your continued prayers for me, for the Office of the Bishop, for our synod, for the ELCA, in thanksgiving for Bishop Eaton, Secretary Rothmeyer, for our new Secretary, and for Bishop Curry.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your bishop.

Peace and love,
Bishop Amy Current

Feeding Our Neighbors - NEST Cafe in Rock Island

If watching or listening to the news lately has taught us anything, it's that **we cannot take a single thing in our lives for granted**. Our circumstances can change quickly. One of my favorite circumstances to watch unfold is when a customer that has typically donated a few cents or a couple of dollars comes into NEST beaming, proudly makes a larger donation and explains how their situation has improved. Their eagerness to share their newfound security is always so inspiring and humbling. But recently, we've witnessed more turning of the tide in the other direction.



There is a family that I've grown to care a lot about since they first began coming to NEST more than 2 years ago. They're so gregarious and funny and personable and just people I like being around. They always leave pictures and fun messages to put on our children's area wall. We joke and talk and really enjoy each other's company. I knew that their situation had become difficult in the spring and hadn't seen them since. This past weekend, I was out to dinner in Davenport and spotted the dad. When I approached him, I received the biggest hug I've gotten in a long time (and I am really fortunate to get a lot of hugs!). He is now homeless. His wife and children are safe and sheltered but at the expense of their family having to be apart.

They are a family like yours and mine; full of love and imperfections, working, doing the best they can, being the people their children look up to. And now they are a family broken apart with the children's superhero literally sleeping on the street at night. Sure, there's more to the story. Life is complicated. **What's not complicated is understanding that life is precious and precarious.**

If you have ever been tempted to assume that the people you see on the street, the people you see on the news, are somehow different from you, please know that they are not. **We are all in this life together doing the best we can with what we have and what we have can change very quickly.** It has and is for many people in our community, in our country, and around the world. We need to remember to be gentle with one another; kind to one another, and always imagine ourselves in another's shoes. They may be ours one day.

— Laura Mahn, Executive Director

Lutheran Services in Iowa Invites You to Celebrate Their 160th Anniversary



*Friday, October 17 - Holiday Inn Des Moines Airport
5:30 PM Registration - 6:30 PM Dinner and Program*

This event will directly support LSI's essential services, endeavoring to ensure...

- Every child is safe from abuse and neglect
- Every individual has access to mental health resources
- Every person with a disability receives the support they need to thrive
- Every immigrant and refugee finds a welcoming community

LSI has been Unstoppable and Still Standing for 160 years—with your support, we can continue making a difference for generations to come.

Lutherans and other supporters from around Iowa will be joining for this special celebration of the 160th Anniversary to continue to support the work helping those in Iowa receive social services. Perhaps a gathering of Trinity members will be able to carpool to this event?

To register, visit <https://bit.ly/lsi160>



bitly



September Church Update 2025

LSI proudly serves Iowans in all 99 counties through our services of Mental Health, Early Childhood, Foster Care & Adoption, Global Greens, People with Disabilities, and Immigrant & Refugee Community Services. We serve individuals of all ages, from families with newborns navigating the early stages of parenthood, to Refugee and Immigrant elders, as well as children of every stage of development. Our heart beats for the people we serve. We empower families and communities by recognizing and honoring the strengths and gifts of every individual.

Your Support makes this Testimony possible
A New Beginning: Carmen's Journey to Safety and Self-Reliance

September 2024 – Impact of In-Kind Donations

At LSI, in-kind gifts (non-monetary) are just as impactful as financial donations. Director of Philanthropy, Deb Whitford, was inspired by the song "If I Could Dream" by Elvis Presley. She wondered, "What would I dream about for our clients? What would our clients dream for?"

A Story by Deb Whitford:

When is a yardage not just pieces of fabric? In the hands of someone learning to sew, fabric becomes a blank canvas of possibilities. A nearly empty closet containing the few items a refugee could fit in their suitcase when traveling to the US turns into a place of pride when filled with hand-sewn clothes made from that fabric. If I could dream...I dream of curtains for bare windows and cloth to cover worn tables. I dream of the magic of small pieces of fabric fitting into beautiful patterns in quilts to brighten homes and become treasured wraps providing comfort and warmth. These dreams are becoming a reality thanks to the generosity of an LSI donor.

Connie Hansen from Audubon, Iowa, is no stranger to fabric and sewing. Connie has enjoyed sewing for much of her lifetime. In her younger years, she shared her passion for sewing, serving as a 4-H leader in Melville Township, sewing clothes for herself and daughter. Through the years, her love and passion for quilting has grown friendships with others who love the craft. Connie dreamed of keeping her newest neighbors warm with her remaining fabric and donated the yards to LSI. This fabric will be used by our newly resettled immigrant and refugee families to create quilts and clothing, helping them feel more comfortable in their new homes. We hear about dreams every day at LSI from our direct service providers, team members, and clients. Thanks to your generosity, these dreams can become reality. Help our clients' dreams become reality by donating in-kind gifts to LSI. To learn more, contact philanthropy@LSIowa.org.

For more information, please contact Deb Whitford, LSI's Director of Philanthropy and Church Relations, at Deborah.Whitford@LSIowa.org or 563-676-2065.

Our Mission: Lutheran Services in Iowa responds to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service. LSI is an affiliated social ministry partner of the Iowa congregations of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) and a member of LSA (Lutheran Services in America). We proudly serve people of all ages, abilities, religions, sexes, gender identities, national origins, ethnicities, races, and sexual orientations. Learn more at LSIowa.org and facebook.com/LSI.iowa.

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SEPTEMBER 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Food Pantry Closed for Labor Day	2 1 PM Worship & Music 3:30PM Education	3 10 AM Bible Study 3:30 PM Social Ministry	4 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Endowment	5 Pastor's Sabbath	6 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
7 9 AM Worship 10 AM Property Blood Pressure Clinic God's Work Our Hands Sunday	8 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry 5 PM Stewardship 6 PM Council	9 4:40 - 5:10 PM Bookmobile	10 10 AM Bible Study	11 1-3 PM Card Ministry 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
14 9 AM Worship 5-7 PM Crossroads information meeting	15 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	16	17 10 AM Bible Study	18 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	19 Pastor's Sabbath	20 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
21 9 AM Worship 5-7 Crossroads 5 PM Night Out at Valley Country Cafe	22 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	23	24 10 AM Bible Study	25 4 - 6 PM Food Pantry	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27 8 AM - PPALS Bible Study
28 9 AM Worship 5-7 Crossroads	29 9 - 11 AM Food Pantry	30 4:40 - 5:10 PM Bookmobile				
	Pastor attending	The Fall Gathering				